

Wisconsin's Maple Syrup Production Improves

Wisconsin's 2006 maple syrup production, at 100,000 gallons, doubled 2005's production, raising the state's rank from 8th in U.S. production last year to 4th place this year. Sugar content of the sap decreased slightly from last year, requiring 34 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup.

About 320 maple syrup producers reported production and price information in April and May. These producers received \$32.40 per gallon for their 2005 production, 10 cents more than a year earlier.

The estimated number of taps set during the 2006 season was 400,000, equal to the 2005 season. The average yield per tap for Wisconsin's producers was 0.250 gallons, up from 0.125 gallons last year.

The beginning date for Wisconsin's maple season was February 20, with a closing date of April 29, 2006. This year's season averaged 23 days, 5 days longer than last year and consisted of fewer, but longer runs. Most producers were very pleased with the sugar content of the sap saying it's the highest in many years.

Eighty-four percent of the producers who responded felt that temperatures this season were favorable for sap flow. This was a large change in opinion from the 2005 season, when 76 percent of producers reported weather too warm and only 8 percent reported favorable weather. Eleven percent of this year's producers indicated that temperatures were too warm for sap flow, and 5 percent reported temperatures too cold. For favorable sap flow, warm days and cold nights are desired.

Producers in the state reported 65 percent of the maple crop was medium in color, 25 percent was light, and 10 percent was dark. Last year, 29 percent of the syrup was dark colored, and 12 percent was light. The remaining 59 percent was of medium color.

Nationally, maple syrup production for 2006 totaled 1.45 million gallons, up 17 percent from 2005's production of 1.24 million gallons. Number of taps set was 7.26 million, up 2 percent. The U.S. price per gallon for the 2005 production averaged \$29.90, up \$1.50 from the 2004 price of \$28.40.

Nationwide, sugar content of the sap was down from the previous year, as approximately 43 gallons of sap were required to produce one gallon of syrup. This is in contrast to the 40 gallons of sap needed to produce one gallon of syrup in 2005, and 42 gallons in 2004. Most syrup was medium colored.

Maple Syrup

State	Production		Average price per gallon		Value of production	
	2005	2006	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 gallons		Dollars		1,000 dollars	
WISCONSIN	50	100	32.30	32.40	3,230	1,620
Connecticut	10	10	51.70	50.00	569	500
Maine	265	300	19.40	21.50	5,626	5,698
Massachusetts	40	40	46.30	51.20	2,315	2,048
Michigan	58	78	38.00	36.00	3,040	2,088
New Hampshire	57	64	35.40	41.30	2,938	2,354
New York	222	253	28.20	31.70	7,191	7,037
Ohio	69	78	32.00	36.00	2,496	2,484
Pennsylvania	61	66	29.00	31.50	1,740	1,922
Vermont	410	460	27.30	27.80	13,650	11,398
United States	1,242	1,449	28.40	29.90	42,795	37,149

Maple Syrup: Price by Type of Sales, and Size of Container, by States, 2005

Type and state	Gallons	1/2 gal.	Quarts	Pints	1/2 pints
	Dollars				
Retail					
WISCONSIN	30.60	16.80	9.10	5.70	4.20
Connecticut	39.30	23.00	13.30	8.20	4.70
Maine	35.00	19.70	11.10	6.80	4.00
Massachusetts	37.50	22.10	13.10	8.80	5.50
Michigan	34.20	18.90	10.30	6.50	4.20
New Hampshire	36.60	21.10	12.10	7.30	4.70
New York	32.50	18.80	11.10	6.90	4.40
Ohio	31.20	18.40	10.70	6.60	4.50
Pennsylvania	29.30	18.00	10.60	6.10	4.30
Vermont	32.30	19.60	11.60	7.40	4.90
Wholesale					
WISCONSIN	33.00	17.10	9.10	5.30	3.00
Connecticut	34.10	17.00	10.30	5.30	4.00
Maine	30.00	15.90	8.50	4.80	4.00
Massachusetts	30.10	16.80	9.60	5.50	3.60
Michigan	29.00	16.40	8.60	4.60	3.50
New Hampshire	30.00	17.10	9.90	5.70	3.30
New York	26.50	16.10	8.80	5.20	3.20
Ohio	26.20	16.50	8.50	5.80	3.80
Pennsylvania	27.50	15.60	8.60	4.70	3.90
Vermont	27.60	16.70	9.50	5.40	3.40

1/Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.